



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

James L. Clifford, Editor — William L. Payne, Ass't. Editor

610 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University,

New York 27, N. Y.

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In a recent conversation Dick Greene (Wells College) made what seems to your editor an excellent suggestion. As you all know, British scholars and libraries cannot purchase American books and periodicals easily because of currency restrictions. Why not make serious efforts as a group to see that new books and magazines are sent over as gifts to the important libraries and to research workers in England and on the Continent? We have all been helping with food parcels. But intellectual fare is important too, and we should consider the present condition also as an emergency in scholarship demanding special procedures.

Is there anything we can do about this matter as a group? What, for example, about periodical subscriptions? Could we help underwrite somehow the foreign subscriptions for the major research journals? Let us know your suggestions. Meanwhile, here are some things we can do as individuals. If you have recently brought out, or are publishing, a book or article, be sure to send copies or off-prints to the English scholars you may suspect would be interested in the topics. Do not feel hesitant about dispatching your products to a perfect stranger. This is an emergency, and the important thing is to ensure the best possible scholarly exchange of ideas under difficult conditions. The vital problem is to see that enough copies of American books and articles get abroad to achieve a more normal spread of ideas.

18th Century Luncheon

If numbers are any criterion, the 18th century luncheon in Detroit was a great success. One hundred and thirty-three scholars crowded into the basement room of the Russian Samovar for a hurried lunch and a short program, with L. I. Bredvold as master-of-

ceremonies. Thanks to the efficient planning of Dick Boys and Earl Britton, everything went off as pleasantly as the large attendance allowed. Our sincere thanks to them! And while on the topic, may we express again our appreciation for the labors of the others who helped in the past -- to Nancy Moore, Dick Altick, Allen Hazen, Arthur Friedman, and G. W. Stone, Jr. -- who have been so important in the development of this group affair.

But success often brings certain penalties. Great size makes almost impossible that intimate, friendly companionship which was originally intended. As. R. D. Havens, who first proposed the luncheon idea in 1941, sadly admits, "the luncheons have become an eat-and-run matter," not accomplishing the object that he had in mind. Havens now suggests that instead of a luncheon next Xmas we arrange a cocktail party, an informal late afternoon gathering. What is your reaction? The tentative schedule for the 1948 meeting calls for the programs of Groups VII and VIII to be held Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 29, from 2 to 5:15. Would you prefer a hurried lunch before 2, or a more leisurely gathering after 5:15? Be thinking about the problem and let us know your opinions.

Historical Manuscripts Commission

At the suggestion of Jim Osborn, we recently wrote to the Historical Manuscripts Commission in London to find out what was being planned for future volumes. We are pleased to learn from the Secretary that despite current difficulties work is proceeding as follows:

Authority has been given to publish three volumes, Vol. XIX of the Salisbury (Cecil) MSS, Vol. V of the Downshire MSS, and Vol. II of the Sackville MSS at Knole. These three volumes are primarily of seventeenth century interest. Because of the paper shortage the Salisbury volume may be the only one printed in 1948.

Material for Vol. V of the Polwarth MSS and Vol. VIII of the Stuart MSS (1719) are ready for printing, though official authorization has not yet been given. The Polwarth volume contains Scottish papers of the reign of George II. Other eighteenth century materials will be in the long-postponed Vol. IX of the "Various Collections," notably among the Gordon Castle papers of the Duke of Richmond, and those of Mrs. Tempest of Dalguize. These must await publication of the three authorized volumes.

Especially important is the announcement that an Analytical Survey of the HMC Reports is being planned. Since over two hundred volumes have already been published, the value of the Analytical Survey for students can scarcely be overestimated. The analysis will be arranged according to about forty subject headings, of which the following are of special interest to literary scholars:

Literature (literary manuscripts, including dictionaries and philological works).

Literary History (letters of literary men, references to literary matters, etc.)

Music and the Theatre (performances, management, letters of actors, musicians, etc.)

Art (painting, sculpture, jewelry, furniture, etc.)

Architecture (including garden planning)

Court and Society

The Survey will also be divided into six chronological divisions, of which the Late Stuart (1660-1714), the Early Hanoverian (1714-1760) and Late Hanoverian (1760 on) will contain materials of interest to readers of this *News Letter*. A full index will assist the user of the Survey to find specific references.

No schedule has been announced to indicate when the Survey may be completed. A sample analysis of more than a dozen volumes is now underway, which will serve as a proving ground of procedure and method. When completed, this Analytical Survey will take its place as one of the most important tools for students of literary and historical research.

A New Discovery

F. Taylor of the John Rylands Library, Manchester, writes: "You may possibly be interested in an 18th century theatrical calendar which we have recently acquired. This MS (now Rylands English MS. 1111) consists of 34 pages (180 x 112 mm.), of which pp. 1-14 contain a calendar of plays performed at Covent Garden, 19 Sept. 1740 to 15 May 1741, and pp. 16-26 a similar calendar for the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, 5 Sept. 1741 to 31 May 1742. It is in a simple contemporary hand which has added marginal annotations respecting actors (including Peg Woffington, whose Covent Garden debut is entered, 6 Nov. 1740; Colley Cibber; Garrick; Mrs. Clive), benefits (over sixty are recorded), visits of the royal family and miscellaneous, brief notes regarding the plays. The only clue to

the writer is on f. 6v. where, against the *Rehearsal* (18 Dec. 1740) is entered "Cibber sick. I did Bayes." On pp. 15-15v. is a list of the company for the 1741 season (Milward, Delane, Cibber. ...Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Woffington, Mrs. Mills; twenty-eight names in all, with "etc., etc.") and on p. 27 a note of money *Receiv'd of Chs: Fletewood* [the Drury Lane manager] *at times since the house shut up, i.e., on 11 June, 13 July and 12 Aug. 1742.* Ff. 27v-34 are blank."

Taylor goes on to add that the item is as yet unknown outside the Rylands Library. From the details here given can any one of our readers identify the supposed compiler?

Miscellaneous News Items

A new weekly magazine which may be of interest to many of you is called *Antiquarian Bookman*. Published by R. R. Bowker Co., it will embody the material and departments of "Books Wanted" and "For Sale" which have been published in *Publisher's Weekly*. The editor is S. M. Malkin, and regular contributors will be Jacob Blanck and Edward Lazare. The subscription rate is \$3.00 for 52 issues. (Address 62 W. 45th St., New York 19.) Although most of the issues are given over to long lists of books wanted and books for sale merely for dealers, there are also notes on recent auction sales, lists of catalogues received, and antiquarian book gossip.

It has recently been announced that Igor Stravinsky is at work on an opera to be based on Hogarth's "Rake's Progress." W. H. Auden is to provide the English libretto,

As usual, R. H. Griffith's Christmas greeting is an interesting bibliographical item. This year it is a musical setting of lines 69-74 of Pope's "Elegy to the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady."

The Viking Press expects to bring out a *Portable Swift*, possibly late this spring.

We are glad to hear that Arthur Coon (Sampson College) has agreed to take over the editorship of our sister periodical, the *Seventeenth Century News-Letter*. Write to him if you are interested in starting it up again and will be willing to help.

The April *PQ*, with its 18th century bibliography, is always welcome. Congratulations and thanks again to Arthur Friedman and Louis Landa.

An interesting use of Defoe's *An Essay upon Projects* is made

by Roger McCutcheon in his Presidential Address to the South-Central M.L.A., printed in its *Bulletin* for January 1948. Read it for some valuable twentieth century suggestions.

We are delighted to have Rousseau Van Voorhies recopy our blast about Johnson as a writer (*JNL*, May 1947) into the last issue of *The Rambler*, the publication of the Boswell Club of Chicago. Keeping the argument going is a good Johnsonian procedure.

Answer This One

From Jim Osborn comes the following: "What one of Johnson's writings begins with this paragraph, so appropriate to 1948?

'By what causes the necessities of life have risen to a price, at which a great part of the people are unable to procure them, how the present scarcity may be remedied, and calamities of the same kind may, for the future, be prevented, is an inquiry of the first importance; an inquiry before which all the considerations which commonly busy the legislature vanish from view.'"

How many of you can give the answer without consulting your edition of Johnson's works?

Work in Progress

With the taking over of *W.I.P.* by the M.L.A. — to be issued with each annual supplement hereafter — we will not attempt to list all new 18th century projects in the *J.N.L.* But we will continue to publicize all projects in which there may be an opportunity for appeals for help from our readers. Thus if you are working on a research topic which you may wish to list, with a request for possible aid, send it right in.

Francesco Cordasco (Long Island Univ.) has in preparation a check-list of Smollett criticism from 1800 to 1945. Meanwhile, he has issued a 9-page lithoprinted list of *Smollett Criticism, 1925-1945*, containing 73 items. This is for sale at what appears to your editor to be a rather steep price of \$1. Address Cordasco at Long Island Univ., 375 Pearl St., Brooklyn 1, N. Y.

J. H. Wilson (Ohio State), whose *Court Wits of the Restoration* is to be published by the Princeton Univ. Press in the spring, is at work on a biography of Nell Gwyn. Any out-of-the-way information will be much appreciated.

R. W. Chapman's great edition of Johnson's letters is speedily

moving into page proof. He expects to print some 1500 Johnson letters, thus adding approximately 50% to Hill's edition of 1892. Included also will be over a hundred letters from Mrs. Thrale to Johnson, many of them hitherto unprinted.

Roy M. Wiles (McMaster Univ., Hamilton, Ontario) has for some time been working on fiction, and criticism of fiction, in the newspapers and periodicals of the 18th century and earlier. He hopes to publish a volume of representative stories with an introductory monograph. As he puts it, "the full story of the light reading of our ancestors cannot be told without reference to the fiction, native and foreign, which was printed either in newspapers and periodicals or in 'number books'...."

The Famous Douglas Case

Lillian de la Torre, whom we (magnanimous as we are) will never quite forgive for her wholly enthusiastic review in the *New York Times* of *The Hooded Hawk*, writes that she is in the middle of a book for Knopf on the great Douglas cause, in which Boswell was so passionately involved. It is to be called "The Heir of Douglas" and is to be a factual study in the style of *Elizabeth Is Missing*.

She adds: "In it will be active one of the first 'detectives' to ferret out the clues in the case — none other than James Burnet, later Lord Monboddo, who was one of the Hamilton lawyers, went to France, and built up the theory of the kidnapped children. I would be extremely grateful for any casual references to the case which your readers may encounter in their researches into other matters — practically everybody then alive had something to say about the matter. My favorite, of course, is Johnson's sly crack when Boswell lamented that Archie Douglas let his mother's grave in Holyrood Chapel lie untended: "'Sir, sir, don't be too severe upon the gentleman; don't accuse him of want of filial piety! Lady Jane Douglas was not *his* mother.'"

Simultaneously, Lillian de la Torre (address 1134 E. High St., Colorado Springs, Colorado) is collecting material for a book to be called "Traced in Blood," a collection of famous "firsts" in crime, including the cases of Spencer Cowper, Richard Hathaway, Sarah Malcolm, John Donellan, and others.

18th Century Newspapers

Lewis Leary writes that the last *JNL* sent him "right down to our

newspaper room to find just what we have in eighteenth century newspapers." Why don't some of the rest of you follow Leary's example? Here are the Duke holdings: *Kentish Gazette*, 1773-1776 (with a few minor gaps); *Kentish Post, or Canterbury News-Letter*, 1748-1749 (scattered), 1753-1755, 1757, 1759-1767 (complete); *London Times*, 1794, 1796, 1799 (complete originals) and 1785-1799 (complete -- film); *London Gazette*, 1700-1701 (fairly complete), and 1701-1710 (well scattered); *Daily Post Boy*, 1729-1737 (scattered); *The Pasquin*, 1722-1724 (scattered); *St. James's Chronicle*, 1778-1786 (fairly complete); *Morning Chronicle*, 1794-1800 (film), 1800-1809 (originals), 1810-1833 (film).

R. D. Havens has also kindly sent on notes concerning some late 18th century newspapers in the Johns Hopkins Library. Of chief importance is a run of the *World* from Jan. 1, 1787 to Feb. 13, 1792 (through the main Della Cruscan period). Fairly long runs include the *Public Advertiser*, 1789-92; *The Morning Chronicle*, April-Nov. 1791, Jan.-Oct. 1792; and the *Hull Advertiser*, July 5, 1794 to July 2, 1796. Others worth listing are scattered issues of the *Cabinet*, Jan., Feb. 1792; *Gazetteer*, 1777, 1778, 1791; *Morning Herald*, June 1789-July-1790, Sept. 1791, Feb.-Oct. 1792; *Morning Post*, Jan.-Dec. 1791, May-June, 1792; the *Oracle*, 1789-92 (not continuous); and a few copies in the same period of the *Star*, *Westminster Evening Herald*, *Argus*, *Evening Mail*, etc.

Recent Books

E.S. de Beer has sent us an excellent new printing of *The Journeys of Celia Piennes*, edited by Christopher Morris, with a Preface by G. M. Trevelyan (London, Cresset Press, 1947). Included are accounts of trips around England in 1685-96, 1697, 1698, 1701-3, which Trevelyan calls "a valuable source of economic and social history, in the same class as Defoe's *Tour* of a few years later."

Having now had an opportunity to read through Robert Halsband's new edition of *The Nonsense of Common-Sense* (Northwestern Univ. Studies in the Humanities, No. 17), we must confess that the exciting new ascription of the essays to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu will not add much to her reputation as an entertaining writer. But if the essays do not sparkle with obvious wit, the admirable new printing, with Halsband's sound introduction, is a valuable

addition to our knowledge of the political situation in England in 1737-38.

Percy Laithwaite, Secretary of the Lichfield Johnson Society, sends us his latest piece of research, *The History of the Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust*, published in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the formation of the trust. Though the book contains little of literary interest, the true antiquarian enthusiast can browse through its pages with pleasure as he traces the development of the Midland town, and as he runs across references to Michael Johnson, Lucy Porter, Anna Seward, and other old friends.

Laithwaite has also written about a reprinting, with minor corrections, of Canon Wallis's brochure *Dr. Johnson and His Dictionary* (mentioned in the *JNL* for March 1947). It sells for 1/8, and we know that the Lichfield Johnson Society will be glad to send copies to anyone who encloses that amount. Address P. Laithwaite, Burton Old Rd., Lichfield.

A Few Recent Articles

Dryden enthusiasts will find in the Nov. 1947 issue of *MP* two interesting articles: Frank L. Huntley's "Dryden's Discovery of Boileau" and James V. Rundle's "The Source of Dryden's 'Comic Plot' in the *Assignation*." Robert J. Allen throws more light on the *Examiner* in "William Oldisworth: 'the Author of *The Examiner*'" in *PQ* for April 1947. Irvin Ehrenpreis gives some new facts in "Swift's Father," *N & Q* for Nov. 15; and H. Teerink discusses "The Publication of 'Gulliver's Travels'" in *Dublin Magazine* for Jan. 1948.

Part of an introduction by Louis Kronenberger for a new selection of Pope's works in the Modern Library appears as "Pope -- Demi-Devil or Child of Pain" in *SRL*, Dec. 13, 1947.

Theatrical specialists will be interested in Emmett L. Avery's "The Dramatists in the Theatrical Advertisements, 1700-1709" in *MLQ*, Dec. 1947; and in Frederick T. Wood's "Theatrical Performances at Bath in the Eighteenth Century" in *N & Q*, Nov. 1, 15; Dec. 13, 27 (records compiled from Bath playbills, newspaper advertisements, and a manuscript register of the Bath theatre for 1770. Details are not very complete before 1753, and there are some lacunae in later years. Listings have so far reached 1788).

Three articles concerned with Fielding are: W. Somerset

Maugham's discussion of *Tom Jones*, as one of the ten best novels, in the Dec. 1947 *Atlantic*; Eva B. Touster's "The Literary Relationship of Thackeray and Fielding" in the Oct. 1947 *JEGP*; and Arthur L. Cooke's "Fielding and Writers of Heroic Romance," *PMLA*, Dec. 1947. A glimpse of a forthcoming book by Lord David Cecil, *Two Quiet Lives*, is to be found in "The Schooldays of Thomas Gray," *Life and Letters*, Dec. 1947 (A second excerpt about Gray's life at Cambridge follows in the January issue).

Other articles to be listed are Samuel Klinger's "The Gothic Revival and the German *Translatio*," in *MP*, Nov. 1947; Hoxie N. Fairchild's "Hartley, Pistorius, and Coleridge," *PMLA*, Dec. 1947; T. C. Duncan Eaves' "Edward Burney's Illustrations in *Evelina*" *PMLA*, Dec. 1947; Alfred O. Aldridge's "Madame de Staël and Hannah More on Society" in *Romanic Review*, Dec. 1947; Edward D. Johnson, "The Ireland Shakespearian Forgeries" in *Baconiana*, Oct. 1947.

One article on Johnson to be mentioned is J. H. Hagstrom's "On Dr. Johnson's Fear of Death," *ELH*, Dec. 1947.

Early Issues of the *J.N.L.*

Recently more and more libraries have been subscribing to the *Johnsonian News-Letter*, and they naturally wish to secure a complete file of all old numbers — much to our embarrassment, for some of the early issues have long been out of stock and the stencils destroyed. Frankly, your editor believes that there is little of lasting importance in the early mimeographed numbers, and that to re-cut the stencils merely to be able to supply complete sets would not be worth while. Instead, we wonder if some of our readers can dig up scattered copies of the issues from 1941 to 1944 which they do not care to keep. If so, please send them in, and we will extend your present subscription accordingly.

One of our readers (N. Lester, 1939 Vyse Ave., N.Y. 60), who attaches more importance to the early numbers than we do, has offered to cut stencils for the rare issues, if other subscribers would like to secure them from him. He asks those who desire a complete set, or to fill in gaps in the series, to write to him. If there is sufficient demand, he will take over the job. One question — should the old format be imitated exactly? Let him know if you are interested.

Walt Whitman on Dr. Johnson

In a valuable little pamphlet entitled *Walt Whitman as a Critic of Literature* (published in 1938 as Univ. of Neb. Studies, No. 16) Maurice O. Johnson discusses the important books reviewed by Whitman for the *Brooklyn Eagle*. Among them was Boswell's *Life of Johnson*. Whitman found Johnson a "sour, malicious, egotistical man," whose anti-democratic spirit he much disliked. As Maurice Johnson puts it, "Whitman piled his defamation high, calling Johnson a sycophant, a fawner, a tyrant, a didactic, an eccentric with 'vile low nature' and a bad soul. In the notes of Whitman one finds another categorizing of Johnson's unpleasant qualities: there he is called 'physically queer, scrofulous, purblind, crotchety, alimentive.' The Doctor might be most thoroughly disposed of with the title 'burly aristocrat,' indicating his enmity for all humanitarian democracy which Whitman loved."

After reading all this abuse, we are amused, if not quite so startled as Maurice Johnson admits to have been, to find that later in 1888 Whitman borrowed Boswell's *Life* from Thomas Harned with the remark "I have never so far read it." But even after some reading of the work, Whitman's opinion remained the same. Thus he wrote to Traubel: "Dr. Johnson, it is plain, is not our man: he belongs to a past age: comes to us with the odor, the sound, the taste, the appearance, of old libraries, musty books, old manuscripts." His chief complaint against Johnson was that he lacked "the veracity which we have the right to exact from any man -- most of all from the writer, the recorder, the poet. Johnson never cared as much to meet men -- learn from men -- as to drive them down roughshod -- to prod them out -- to crush them against the wall. He is a type of the smart man -- a ponderous type: of the man who says the first thing that comes -- who does anything to score a point -- who is not concerned for truth but to make an impression."

Auction Sales

An interesting sale of eighteenth century items was held at the Parke-Bernet Galleries on January 20. Among the first editions was a copy of *The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*, a rare separate folio printing of Johnson's "Proposals," a presentation copy from the author to Dr. Charles Burney of Boswell's *Life*, and an unusually fine copy of Fanny Burney's *Evelina*. Several Fielding

books, including his first published effort, *The Masquerade*, the uncut Kern copy of *Pasquin*, *Tom Jones*, and the extremely rare *History of the Present Rebellion in Scotland* were offered! There was a manuscript letter signed by Richardson, and another by Smollett; together with many fine copies of Goldsmith, especially *The Vicar of Wakefield*, and of Richardson's *Pamela*, Smollett's *Humphry Clinker* and Sterne. Just the sort of sale, in short, which we would all like to attend — but with a big check book!

A Suggestion for Teachers

Autrey Nell Wiley (Texas St. Teachers College, Denton, Texas) has devised a method of stirring up interest in advanced undergraduate students of 18th century literature which might well be copied elsewhere. One year, for example, a group of her students combined to produce a mimeographed volume of research essays concerned with Jonathan Swift. The brochure contained fourteen essays, a prefatory poem, and bibliographies — in all, 172 pages. Each essay was the result of the student's research during one semester.

At his own expense, each student bought the stencils for his own essay and cut them; then the stencils were run off by the College mimeographing service. Bound together, the essays were finally available as a complete record of the work of the class, a permanent memento of an interesting semester's study. Further recognition came to each student whose essay was included in the book when the director of publicity sent a news story of the project to all the home newspapers.

Webster and Garrick

Finley Foster (West. Reserve) sends in the following:

"Prowling about in the first edition of Noah Webster's *Dictionary* (1828), I found the following under the word *Charade*:

Example.

My *first*, when a Frenchman in learning English, serves him to swear by. My *second* is either hay or corn. My *whole* is the delight of the age. *Gar-rick*.

This is new to me and it may be to you. I am surprised that Noah quoted it, for he had no use for the theatre."

